

Smigel & Mackenzie Appeal of Highway 101 Widening – Segment 4D

Case Nos. 23APL-00001, 23APL-00002, 21DVP-00000-
00022, 21CDP-00000-00076

Board of Supervisors

April 4, 2023



County of Santa Barbara
Planning and Development
Christopher Schmuckal

Segment 4D



PHASE **4D**
MONTECITO

-  4D Roadway & Ramp Improvements
-  Olive Mill Roundabout
-  San Ysidro Roundabout

-  Bridges
-  Advanced Work

Overview

- Purpose and Benefits:
 - Increase roadway capacity
 - Reduce peak travel time
- Design:
 - Within the existing ROW: inward toward the median and outward from existing lanes
- Approved by the Montecito Planning Commission on August 17, 2022
- Approved at the County Planning Commission on December 14th, 2022

Project Description

- Add a part-time, continuous access High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in both the northbound and southbound directions
- Replace existing roadway pavement with 40-year concrete pavement
- Install median barriers, guardrails, fencing, retaining walls, and new landscaping
- Replace bridges over Romero Creek, San Ysidro Creek, and Oak Creek

HWY 101 Northbound



HWY 101 NB at Oak Creek Bridge



HWY 101 SB Near Miramar



HWY 101 SB – San Ysidro Overpass



HWY 101 NB – San Ysidro Overpass



HWY 101 NB at Olive Mill



HWY 101 SB at Olive Mill



Smigel Appeal Issue No. 1

Appeal Issue

- The EIR is insufficient to address removal of sound walls

Staff Response

- Adequate environmental review was completed
 - 2014 EIR
 - 2017 Revised EIR
 - Addenda 2018-2022
 - No significant noise or air quality impacts identified

Smigel Appeal Issue No. 2

Appeal Issue

- The decision to remove the sound walls because of County Flood Control requirements was an error

Staff Response

- Removal was appropriate. Flood Control is implementing Board adopted policies
- FEMA Recovery Map is applicable to the project area
- Hydraulic studies show a rise of more than 1 foot across 31 parcels with sound walls

Smigel Appeal Issue No. 3

Appeal Issue

- The timing of the condition requiring the addition of sound walls is in error

Staff Response

- The timing of Condition #26 is not an error but was agreed to by the applicant in coordination with County staff
- The condition is designed to extend the length of time wherein the sound walls could be incorporated into the project without delaying construction

Smigel Appeal Issue No. 4

Appeal Issue

- The recovery mapping should not be relied upon for the present project, and the requirements have been applied inconsistently

Staff Response

- FEMA Recovery Map is appropriately applied to this project
- Portions of the project are known to be prone to dangerous flooding events

Mackenzie Appeal Issue No. 5

Appeal Issue

- Appellant questions the applicability of the 2018 Recovery Map and asserts that there should be “a balance between daily public health and safety benefits of sound walls against the remote possibility of flooding”

Staff Response

- FEMA Recovery Map was appropriately applied
- Flooding in the area is not a remote possibility (2018 Debris Flow, 2023 January Storm)
- Hydraulic analysis showed that sound walls would be an impediment to the flow of flood waters

Mackenzie Appeal Issue No. 6

Appeal Issue

- Appellant asserts that the lack of sound walls will result in noise and air pollution

Staff Response

- The EIR and addenda prepared for the project analyzed air quality and noise impacts as less than significant (Class III)
- Sound walls were not mitigation for noise or air quality impacts

Mackenzie Appeal Issue No. 7

Appeal Issue

- Appellant asserts that State and County agencies recognize that it is necessary to seek approval to eliminate the sound walls

Staff Response

- The project before the Board is the Highway 101 Widening Segment 4D project, which does not include sound walls
- The applicant is seeking approval of the project, not approval to eliminate the sound walls

Mackenzie Appeal Issue No. 8

Appeal Issue

- Appellant questions why the segment through Carpinteria included sound walls when they were removed in the Montecito segment.

Staff Response

- Segment 4B/4C through Carpinteria included sound walls, however its located in an area with different hydrological conditions.
- This area of Montecito has a history of flooding, and Carpinteria creeks have larger capacity and a larger debris basin.

Consistency Analysis

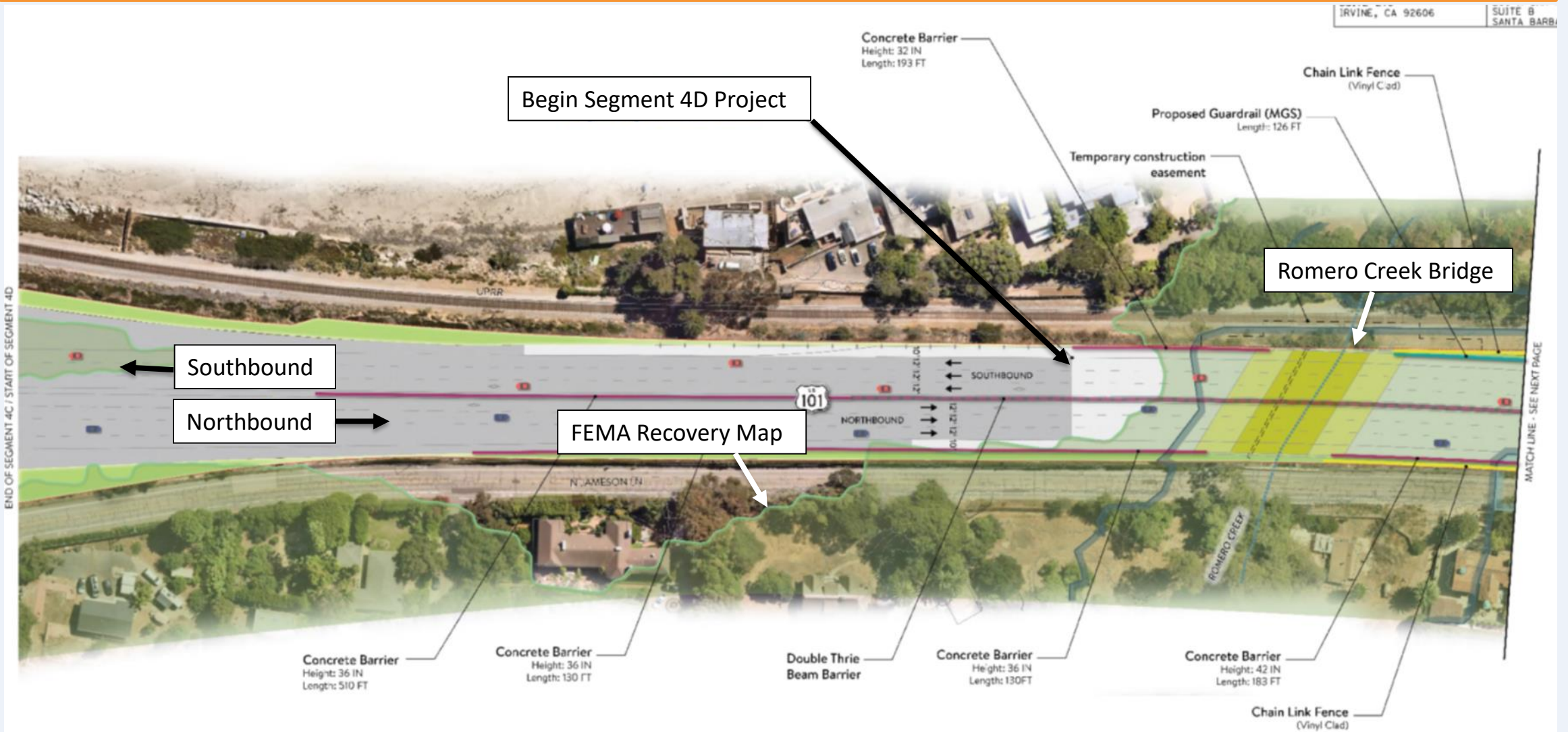
- The proposed project is consistent with
 - Comprehensive Plan, Coastal Lane Use Plan, Montecito Community Plan
 - Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Noise, Transportation, Flood Hazards
 - Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance Development Standards

Recommended Action

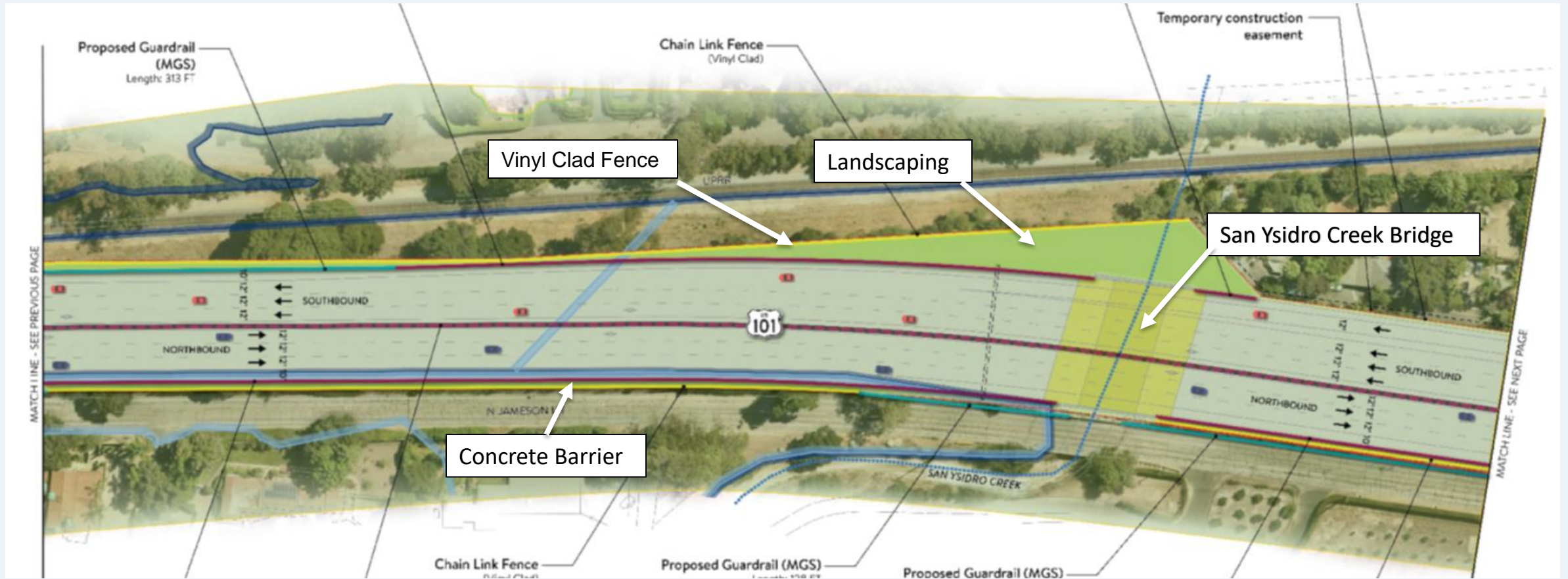
- Deny the appeals, Case No. 23APL-00001, 23APL-00002
- Make the required findings for approval of the project, including the CEQA findings
- Consider the environmental effects of the project as shown in the EIR, Revised EIR, and EIR Addenda prepared and certified by Caltrans, and determine that a subsequent EIR is not required
- Approve the project, Case No. 21DVP-00000-00022, 21CDP-00000-00076, subject to the conditions of approval

Additional Slides

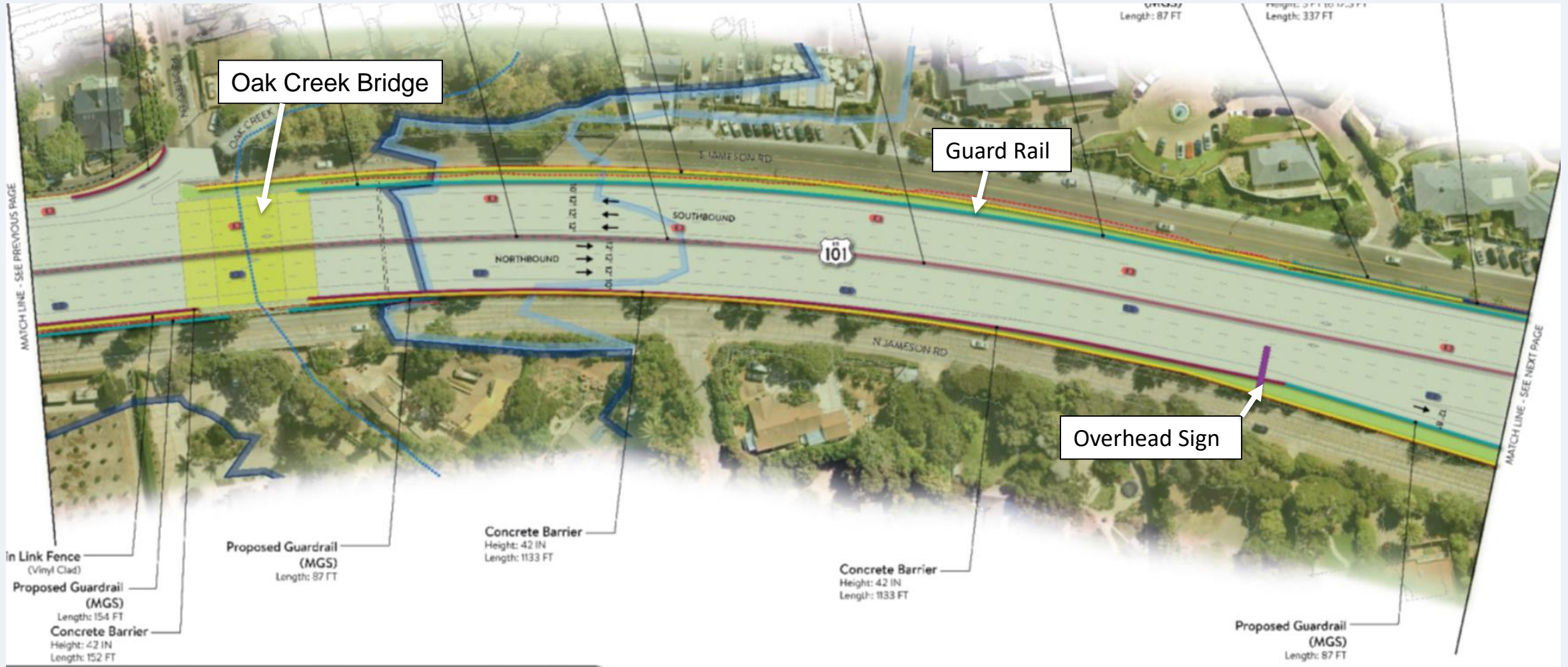
Project Plans - Sheet #1



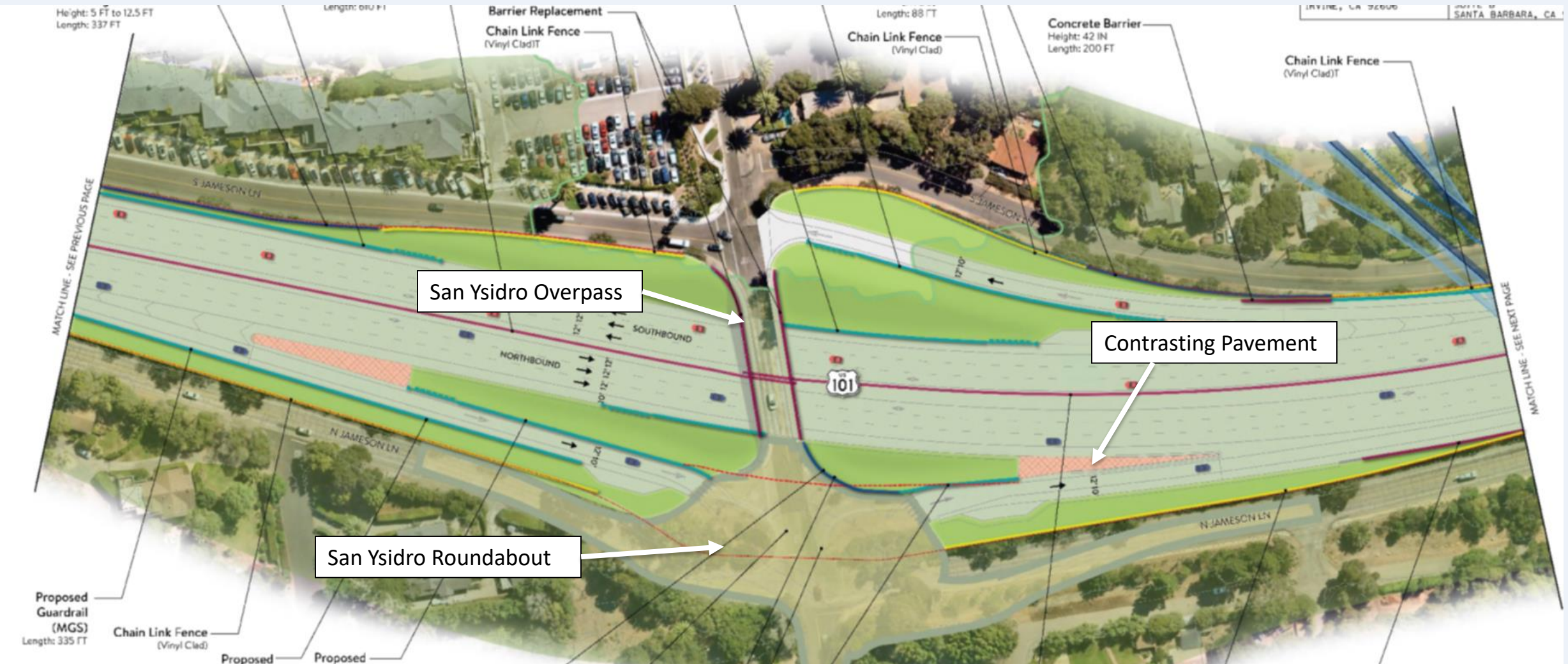
Project Plans - Sheet #2



Project Plans - Sheet #3



Project Plans - Sheet #4



Project Plans - Sheet #5

